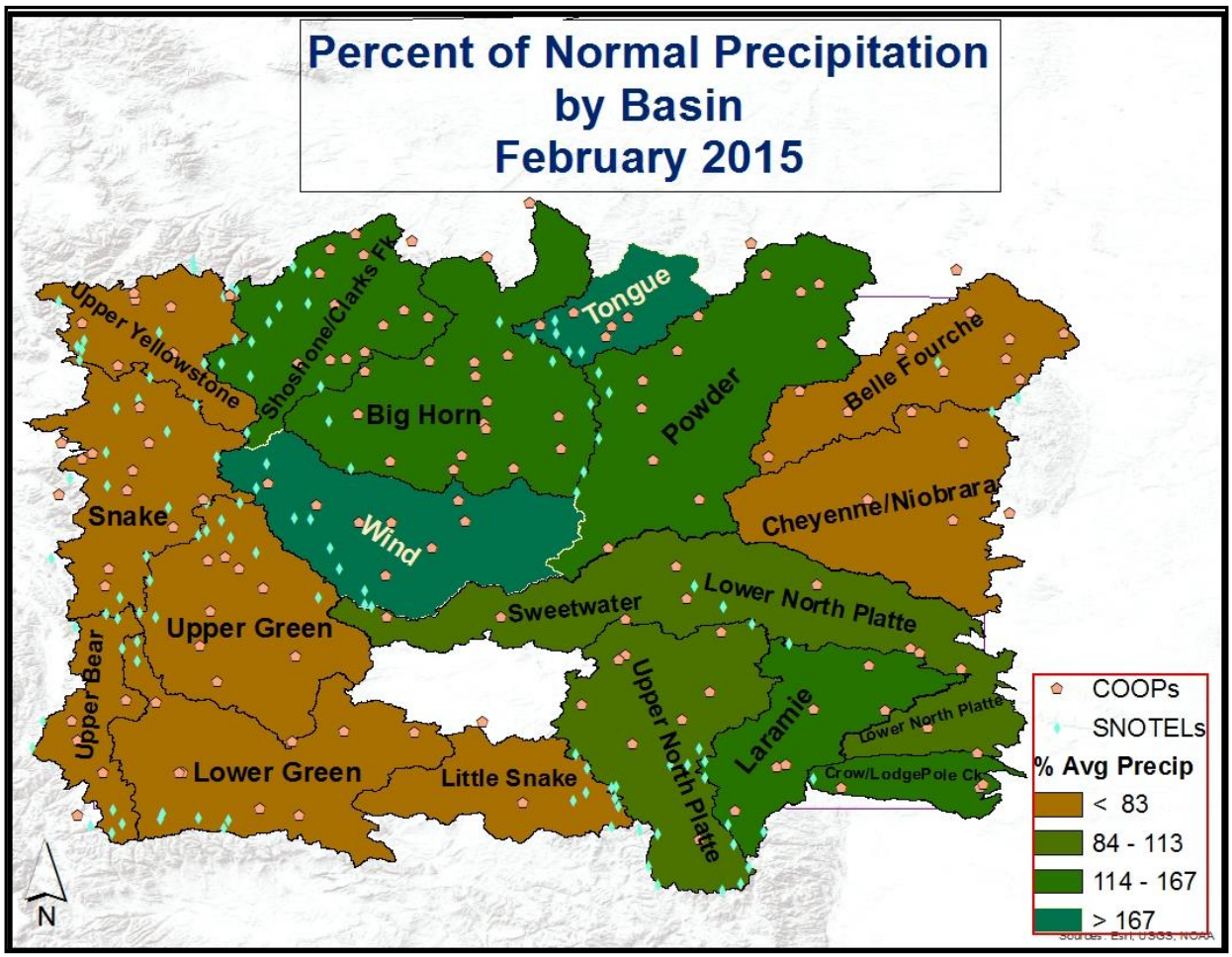
Wyoming Hydrologic Summary

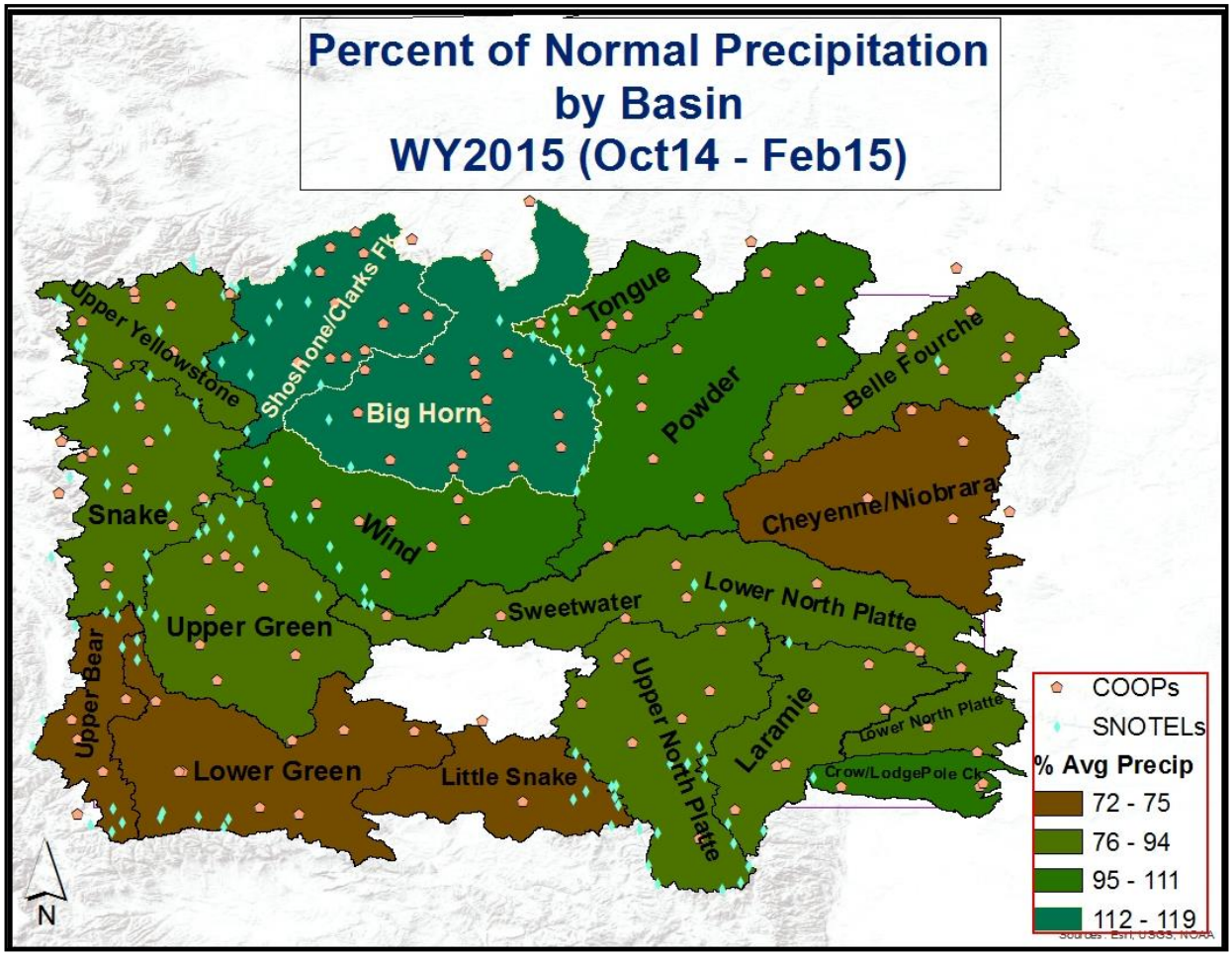
February 2015

Precipitation:

Basins west of the continental divide had **below** normal precipitation during February. Drainages east of the continental divide generally had **above** normal precipitation totals during the month.

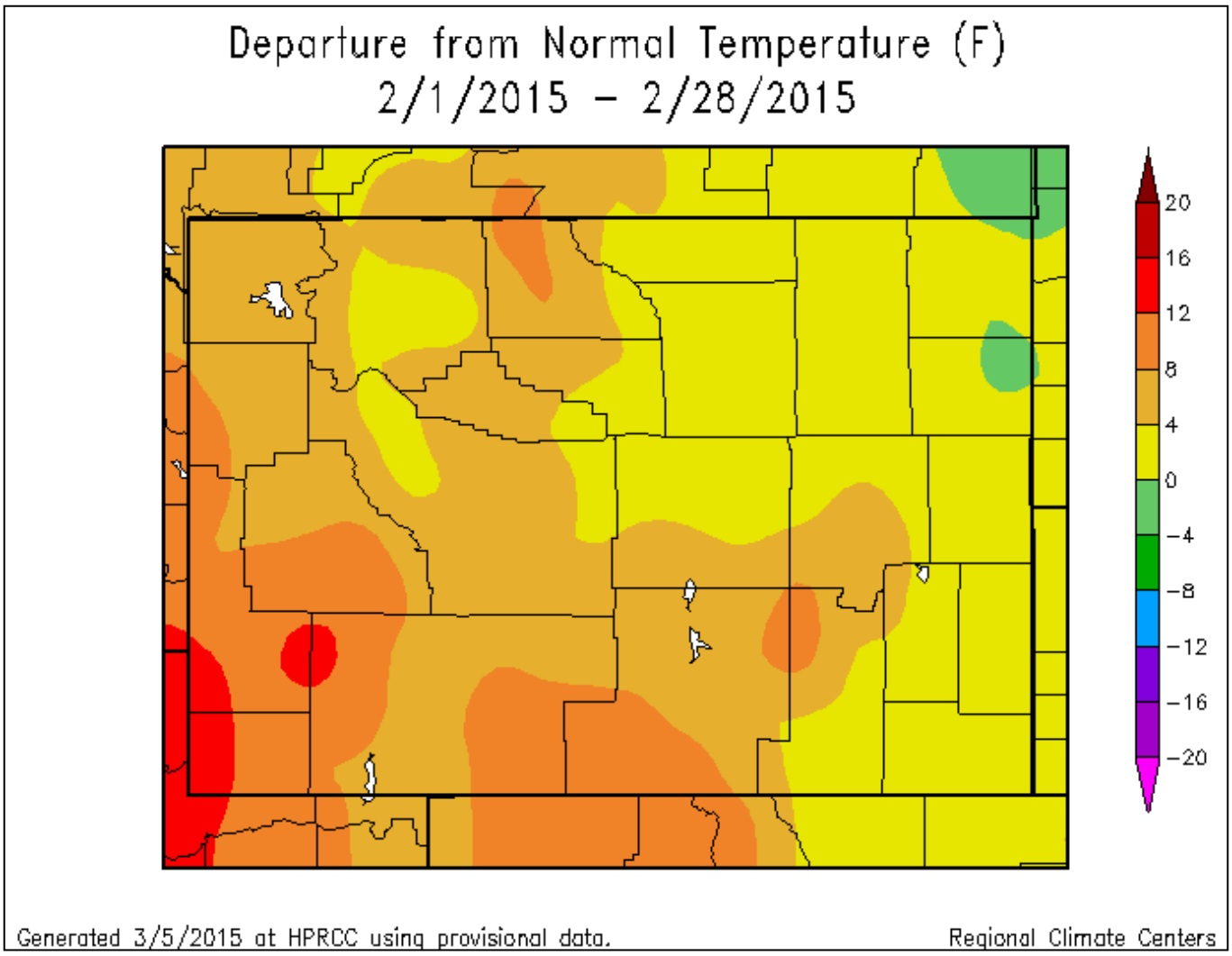


Current Water Year (Oct 2014 - Feb 2015):



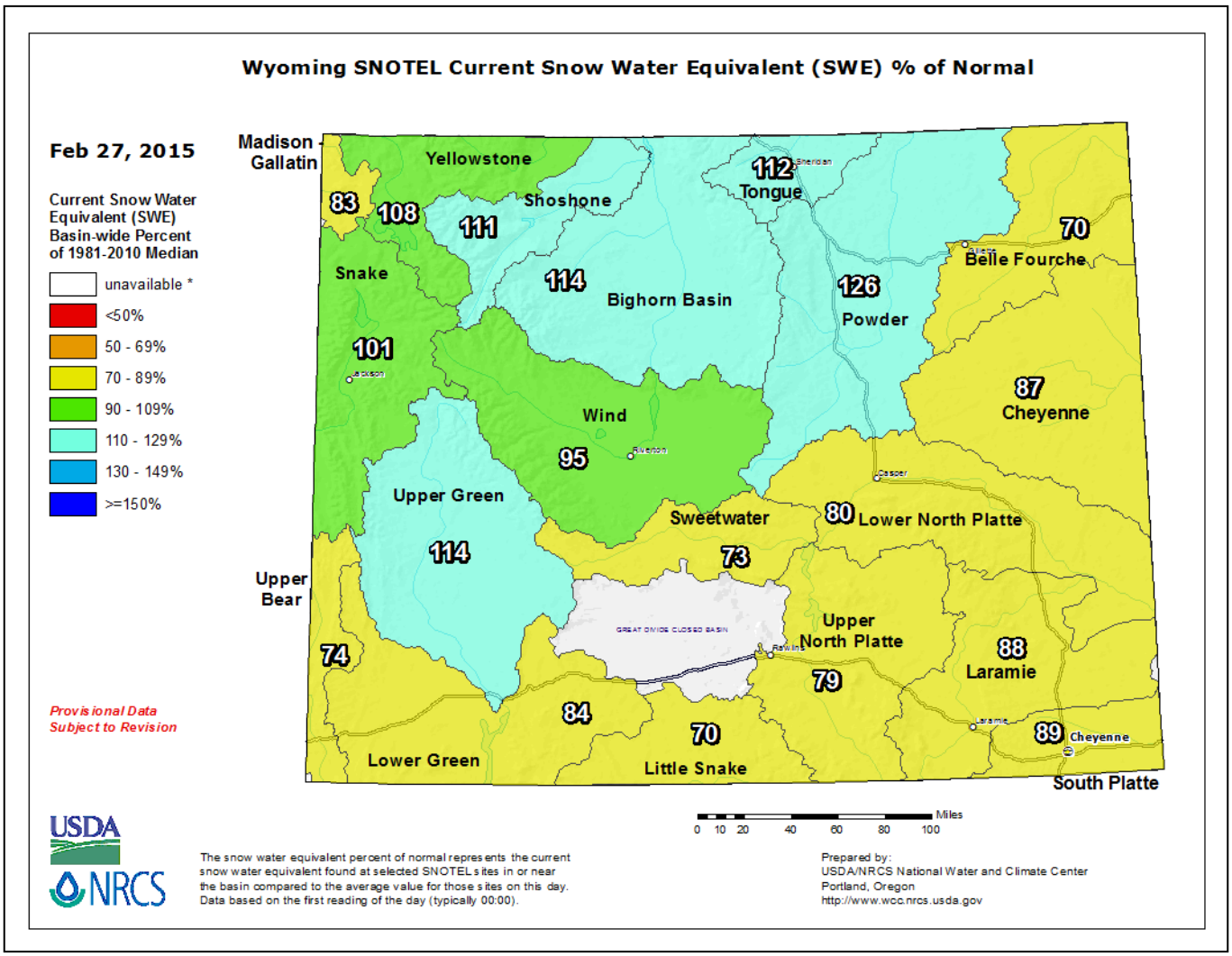
Temperature Trends:

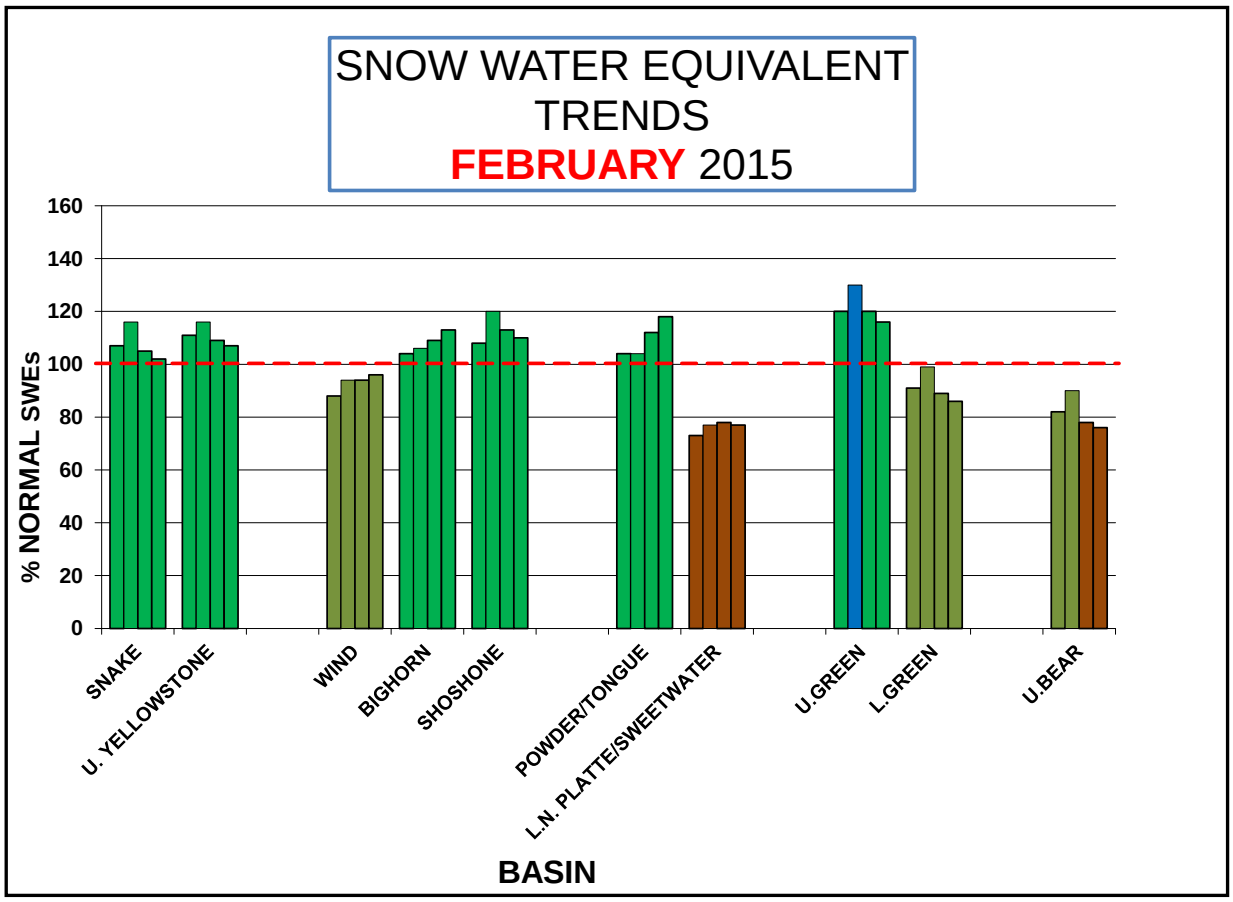
Generally, basin temperatures in February for watersheds across Wyoming were generally **above** normal. Basin temperatures in southwestern Wyoming were **much above** normal during the month.

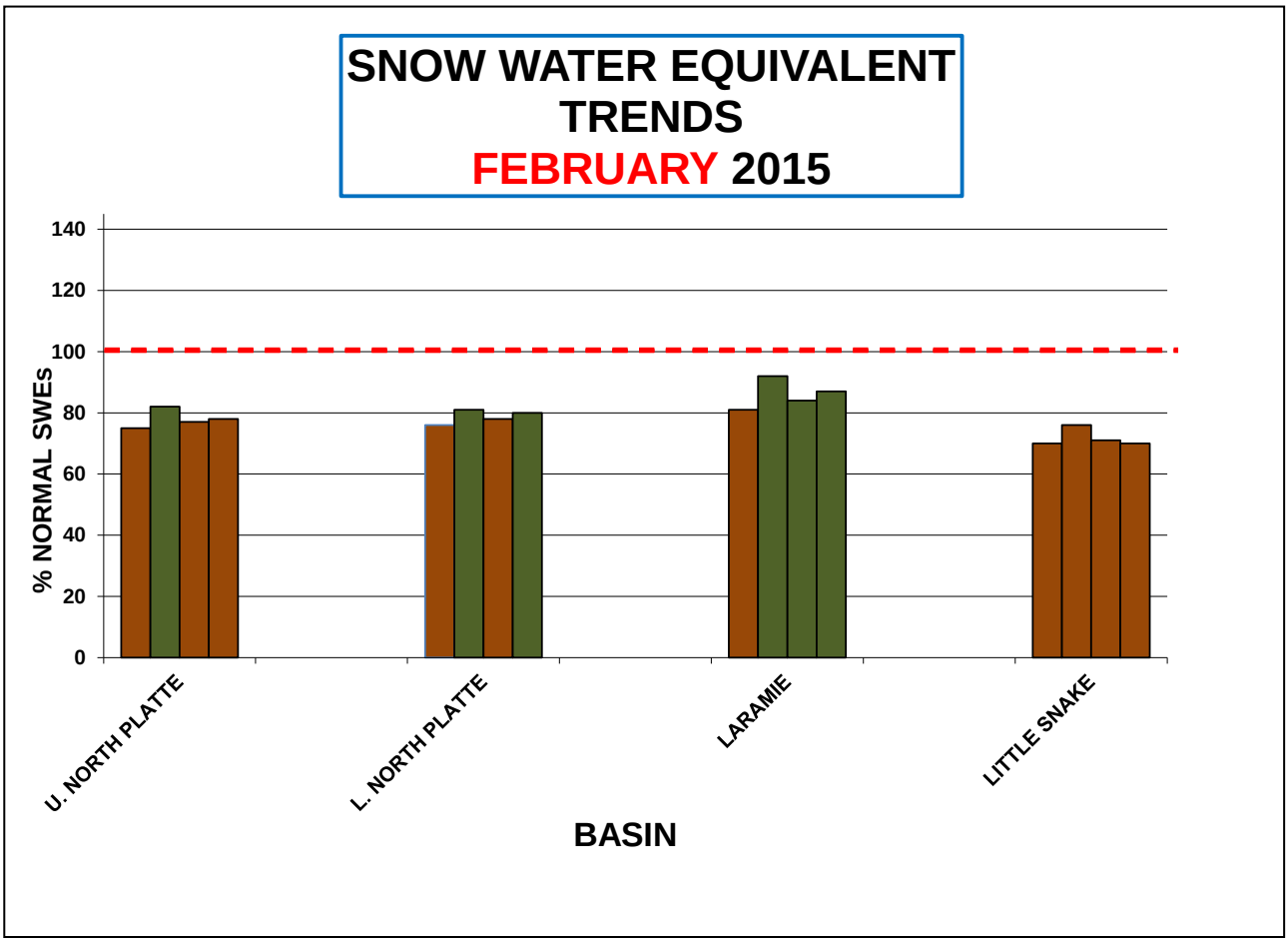


Snow Water Equivalents/Mountain Snowpack:

By the end of February, all major drainage basins in northern and central Wyoming generally had near normal to slightly **above** normal mountain snowpack and/or snow water equivalent (SWE) averages. Drainages in southern Wyoming had **below** normal SWE averages by the end of the month.

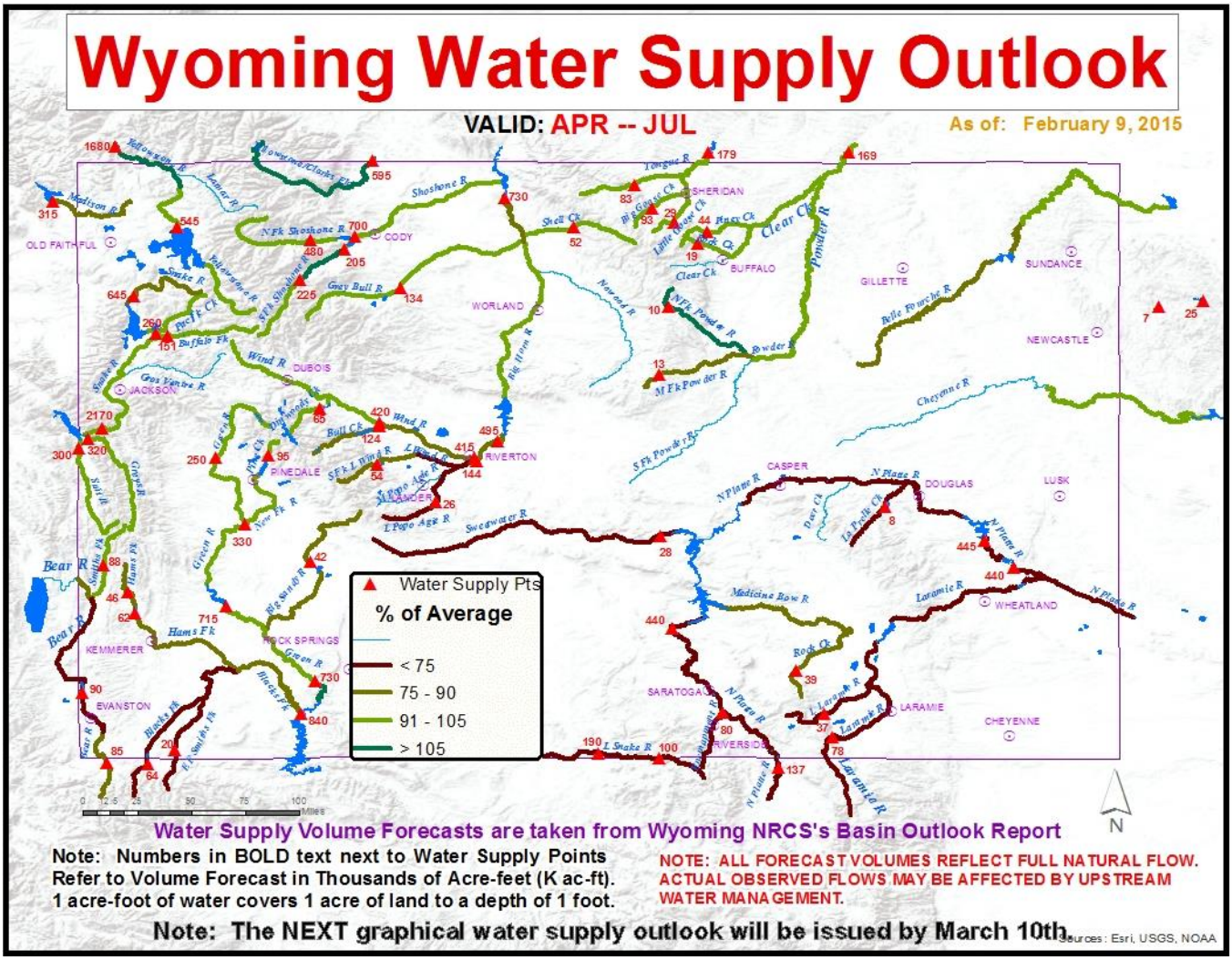

Wyoming SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal
Feb 27, 2015
Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Basin-wide Percent of 1981-2010 Median
unavailable *
<50%
50 - 69%
70 - 89%
90 - 109%
110 - 129%
130 - 149%
>=150%
Provisional Data Subject to Revision
Madison - Gallatin
Yellowstone
83
108
111
Shoshone
112
Tongue
Sheridan
70
Belle Fourche
Snake
114
Bighorn Basin
126
Powder
101
Jackson
Wind
87
Cheyenne
95
Riverton
Casper
Upper Green
Sweetwater
80
Lower North Platte
114
73
Upper Bear
GREAT DIVIDE CLOSED BASIN
Upper North Platte
Rawlins
88
Laramie
74
79
84
70
89
Cheyenne
Lower Green
Little Snake
South Platte
Miles
0 10 20 40 60 80 100
USDA
NRCS
The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).
Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov


SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT TRENDS
FEBRUARY 2015
% NORMAL SWEs
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
SNAKE
U. YELLOWSTONE
WIND
BIGHORN
SHOSHONE
POWDER/TONGUE
L.N. PLATTE/SWEETWATER
U.GREEN
L.GREEN
U.BEAR
BASIN

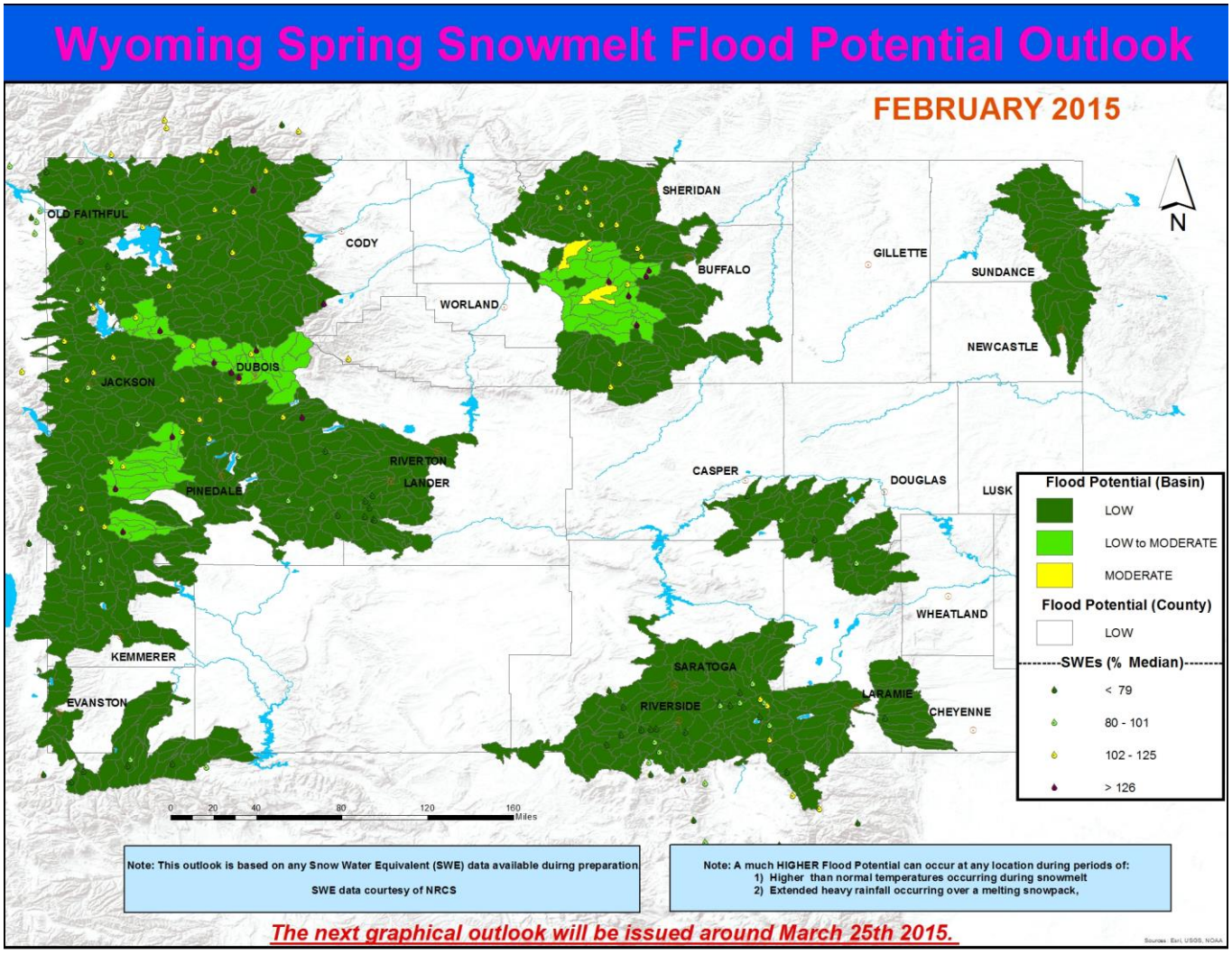


Water Supply/Spring Snowmelt Flood Outlooks:

As of early February, **near normal** streamflow volumes are expected during the upcoming spring runoff across a majority of basins in Wyoming. **Below average** streamflow volumes are expected over drainages in southern Wyoming.



As of the middle of February, headwater basins in Wyoming are expected to see a generally **low** potential for spring snowmelt flooding.

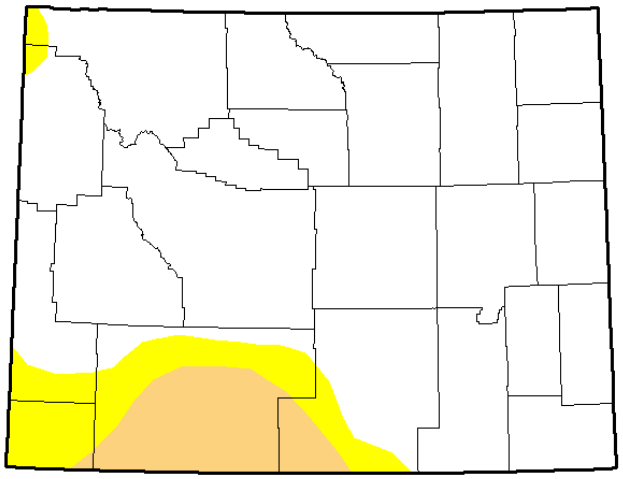


Drought:

All major drainages in Wyoming continued to have minimal hydrologic drought conditions during February. These drought conditions are expected to persist through the spring.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Wyoming



February 24, 2015

(Released Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	84.54	15.46	7.31	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 2/17/2015	87.31	12.69	7.29	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 11/25/2014	97.56	2.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12/30/2014	97.56	2.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/30/2014	97.56	2.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 2/25/2014	69.85	30.15	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

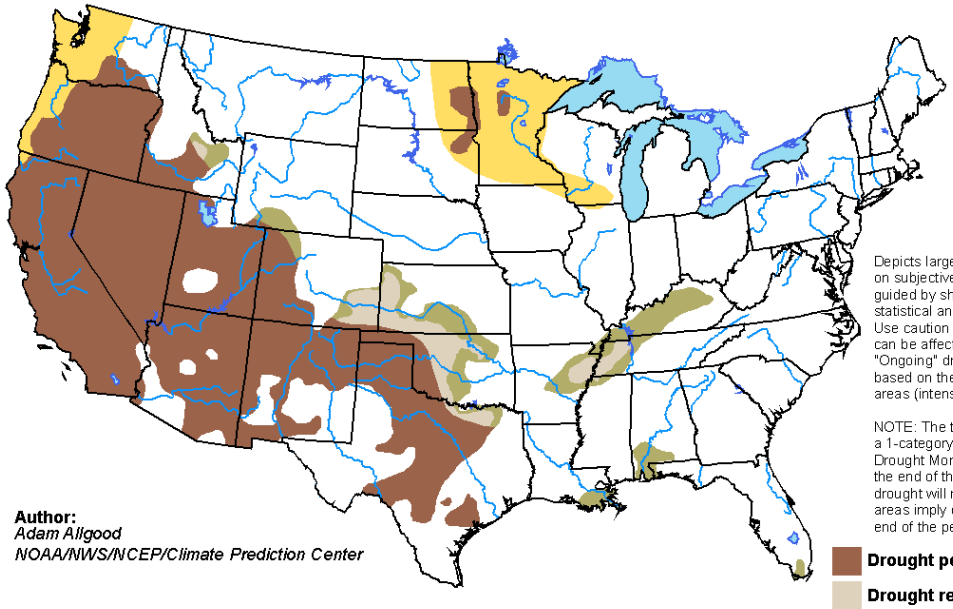
Author:
Richard Heim
NCDC/NOAA

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for February 19 - May 31, 2015
Released February 19, 2015



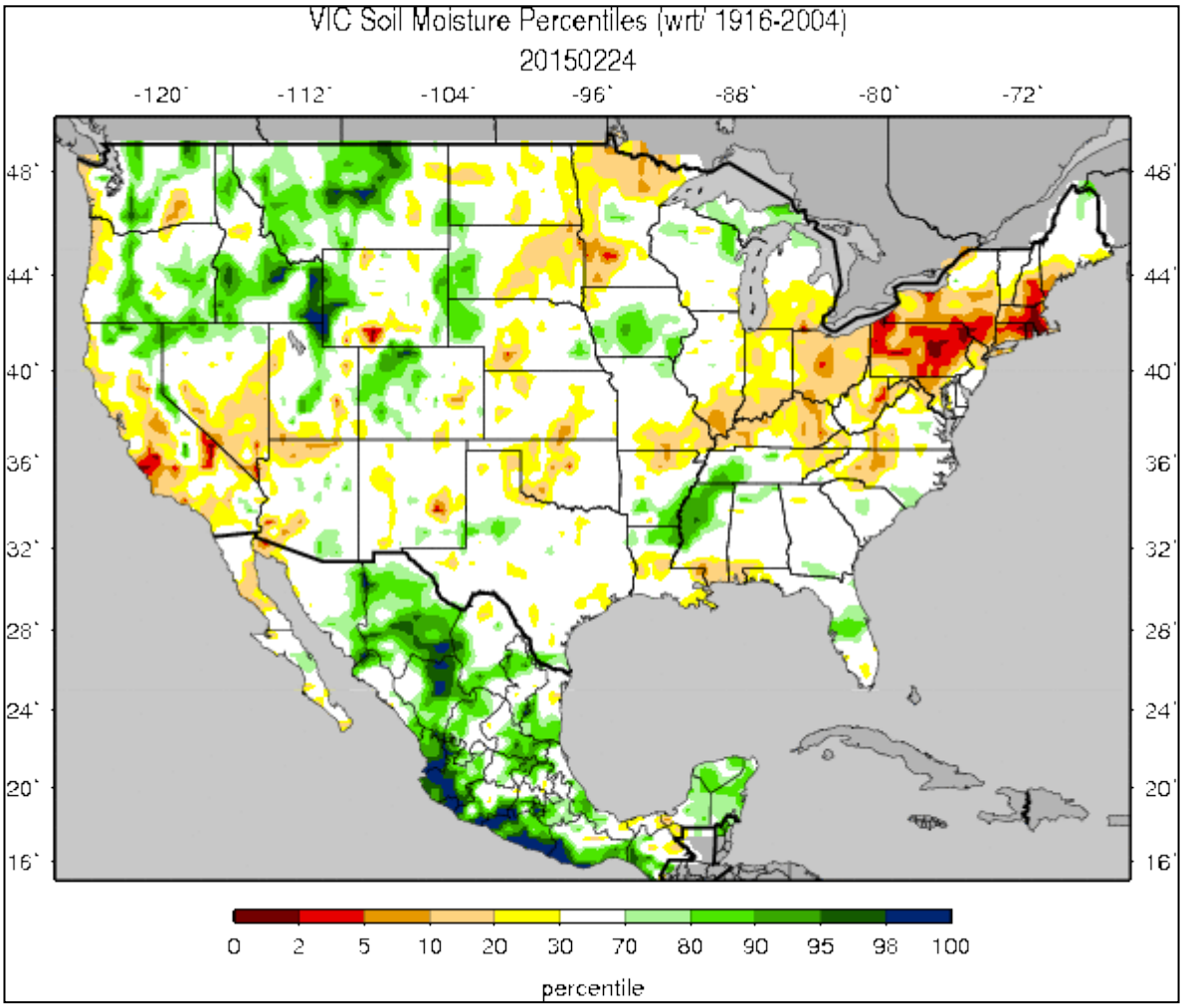
Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- **Drought persists/intensifies**
- **Drought remains but improves**
- **Drought removal likely**
- **Drought development likely**

Author:
Adam Allgood
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

http://go.usa.gov/hHTe



Relatively moist soil conditions continued over basins in western and eastern Wyoming; while basins in central and southern Wyoming continued to have somewhat dry soil conditions.

Ice Jam Flooding:

No significant ice jam flooding was reported.